



# Washington State Department of Agriculture News Release

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## **Aberdeen, Port Angeles**

### **WSDA plans additional meetings on National Animal Identification System changes**

**OLYMPIA** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) has scheduled two additional meetings as part of a series of forums around the state to make sure livestock owners are aware of recent changes in the National Animal Identification System (NAIS).

The NAIS is an effort to identify where livestock live or co-mingle and track their movement to different locations. The purpose of the system is to manage and respond to animal disease outbreaks, which can have devastating economic, animal health, and human health impacts. The goal of the system is to be able to trace all potentially affected animals within 48 hours of a disease outbreak.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which is in charge of the NAIS, recently announced changes in the timeline for requiring livestock to be registered.

“Animal identification is expected to begin in January, but USDA has announced no definitive date,” said Chris Spaulding, WSDA’s Animal Identification Program specialist. “We want to update animal owners on what is and isn’t required under the revised regulations. These community meetings are also an opportunity for livestock owners to comment on the NAIS or ask questions.”

The meetings will be held in:

**Aberdeen**, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 10, WA State Dept. of Transportation Maintenance Bldg.,  
4801 Olympic Highway

**Port Angeles**, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., Jan. 12, WA State Dept. of Transportation Maintenance Bldg.,  
1707 So. “C” Street

In November and December, WSDA held 11 well-attended meetings in communities all around the state.

More information about the proposed ID system is available online, including the WSDA Web site at [www.agr.wa.gov](http://www.agr.wa.gov) (go to Food & Animals/National Animal Identification System), the U.S. Department of Agriculture site at [www.usaip.info/documents.htm](http://www.usaip.info/documents.htm) and the Northwest Pilot Project at [www.northwestpilot.org](http://www.northwestpilot.org).

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